

Listing of Claims:

1 – 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of securing in abutment two ~~rectangular-section~~ tubular metal members (23, 24) ~~having longitudinal axes extending mutually at right angles~~, comprising the steps of forming ~~punching or drilling~~ at least two first holes (30, 32) in one wall (31, 33) of each of the metal members (23, 24), acting through the first holes (30, 32) so formed to burst second holes (34, 36), respective to each of the first holes (30, 32), in the opposite walls (35, 37) of the metal members (23, 24) to form outwardly-extending collars (38, 39), screw threading the collars (39) in one of the metal members (23), engaging the collars (38) of the other of the metal members (34) in the first holes (32) of the one of the metal members (23), and engaging ~~bolts~~ threaded fasteners through respective ones of the aligned first and second holes (32, 32, 34, 36) in the metal members (23, 24) to engage the screw threads in the collars (39) of the one of the metal members (23) to clamp the metal members (23, 24) together.

5 – 8 (Canceled)

9. (New) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of threading the collar comprises the step of threading the outermost second hole.

10. (New) The method as defined in claim 4, further comprising the steps of aligning the tubular members in abutment such that the collar in the first member is received in the first hole in the second member and the collar in the second member is threaded to receive the threaded fastener.

11. (New) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the tubular metal members are rectangular.

12. (New) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of engaging a threaded fastener through respective ones of the aligned first and second holes in the metal members comprises the step of engaging a bolt through respective ones of the aligned first and second holes in the metal members.

13. (New) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of forming at least two first holes comprises punching or drilling the at least two first holes.

14. (New) The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the tubular metal members have longitudinal axes extending at mutually right angles.

Appl. No. 10/657,642
Amdt. Dated June 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 29, 2004

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 5, 6 and 11.

Proposed revision marks in red are provided for Fig. 11. Figs. 5 and 6 are provided on separate replacement sheets, the replacement sheets taking the place of sheet 4 as filed.